UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/710
18 August 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 18 AUGUST 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to present to you the attached letter, dated today, from my Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed to you (see annex).

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivan Z. MISIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 18 August 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the President of the Security Council

We have learned, first through the media briefing of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), that UNPROFOR will totally withdraw its forces from the safe area/exclusion zone of Goražde. We take some comfort from the statement that Goražde will continue to be the beneficiary of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) air protection. However, we have not been informed as to the mechanisms of this protection under these new circumstances, and seek clarification. Finally, although we have had some consultations on the matter with UNPROFOR headquarters in Sarajevo as well as New York, we believe that all the options available to improve the safe area/exclusion status of Goražde have not yet been properly addressed. After all, if UNPROFOR or the rapid reaction force (RRF) in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina are no longer to have a role in defending or deterring attacks against safe areas/exclusion zones, we must question why is there any UNPROFOR or RRF in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina or at least why the 40,000 troops. We understand that several nations have offered substantial forces and real deterrents for Goražde, but that these offers have been continually rejected.

While there is speculation as to Goražde's future under the American initiative, the timing of the action by UNPROFOR could only raise suspicion and a lack of confidence. While the RRF presses its engagement in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, we wonder why it is not pressed to establish a presence in the safe area/exclusion zone of Goražde.

Our only recourse is to take into consideration UNPROFOR's real contributions in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina as we continue to evaluate UNPROFOR's status. Of course, we reserve the right to undertake other measures under Article 51, including alternative bilateral arrangements to redress the matter.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Minister